REWARDS IN HEAVEN

By David J. Stewart

Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

This is a brief Biblical study on the subject of "REWARDS OF HEAVEN." One may be surprised to learn that the Bible has much to say concerning "rewards." I think it is well worth the study time and something that every believer needs to seriously take to heart.

This is not a study of salvation. Laying up treasures in Heaven by our own labors as Christians has nothing to do with going to Heaven. We are saved by Jesus' righteousness alone, and not by any self-righteousness on our part. Salvation is not a *reward*, it is the *free gift* of God. Eternal life is received, not achieved. A man's faith is COUNTED for righteousness. **Romans 4:5, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."** That is the simplicity that is in Christ.

As born-again believers God pleads with us to, **"present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).** Romans 12:1-2 is not a plan of salvation; but rather, tells us what God expects of believers, i.e., those who have completely rested in Christ's righteousness for the forgiveness of sins. We don't live for God to **GET** saved, we live for God because we **ARE** saved.

My greatest rewards in Heaven will be the souls saved, lives changed and Christians who were challenged to become aggressive soulwinners through

my humble labors in the Lord. The measurement of my success in life won't be how many people say goodbye at my funeral; but rather, how many people are waiting to greet me when I get to Heaven. My greatest rewards are the lives that have been changed by God through my humble ministry labors online since 2002. ***2nd Corinthians 3:2, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."***

I am nothing, but Jesus is everything. God in His sovereign wisdom has chosen humanity as the vehicle by which to reach the souls of other men with the Gospel. If we don't do it, it won't get done! Romans 10:14 ***...and how shall they hear without a preacher?***

Jesus warned that no man can serve God and mammon (wealth). **Luke 16:13, "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."** Most people these days live for money, willing to sell their soul to get it. Pursuing earthly wealth is how not to have any eternal wealth. As born-again believers we have a golden opportunity from God to lay up eternal treasures in Heaven. Do you have enough faith in the Word of God to spend your life laying up treasures in Heaven?

Before entering into the truths found in this book, this author simply asks the reader to bow his or her head and pray, "Lord, teach me the truth about Rewards in Heaven." May the Lord use this book as a part of His answer to your prayer.

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"God never leads anyone anywhere for money."
—Pastor Jack Hyles

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Rewards In Heaven

Chapter One — Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

By David J. Stewart
October 2009 | Updated December 2016

Matthew 6:20, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

The Bible tells us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." This is true wealth. So many people have departed from the Christian faith because of love for money, whether it be paper money, gold and silver, real estate, et cetera. It's not a sin to invest, but it is a sin to become engulfed and engrossed with making money. For the Christian believer, money should never become a priority in our life. Our top priority in life ought to be to PLEASE GOD by obeying the Bible.

> **1st Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."**

I'm so sick and tired of hearing greedy men talk about buying gold and silver. They make it sound like you can't live without gold and silver. May I say, you can't take it with you. Everyone is born into this life with NOTHING, and they will die and leave this life with NOTHING. The measure of my success will not be how many people come to say goodbye when I leave this life, but how many people will be there to greet me when I get to Heaven. We can't take things with us into eternity, but we can take souls, changed lives and that which we have done for Christ.

It is not wrong to serve God with the motive of laying up treasures in Heaven, for the Lord Himself encourages us with this promise of accumulating rewards in eternity (Matthew 6:19-20). Jesus said to "LAY

UP," which is the Greek word *thēsaurizō* and means "to amass or reserve (literally or figuratively): - lay up (treasure), (keep) in store, (heap) treasure (together, up)." As our earthly wealth diminishes and disappears, our treasures in Heaven are stacking up as we serve God day-by-day.

And may I say, the believers with the most rewards in Heaven one day will be those who CONSISTENTLY serve God. It's not the spectacular moments of our life that earn us rewards in Heaven; but rather, the mundane, boring, consistent, faithful, daily labours for Christ. There are many different types of rewards that will be given in Heaven. ***Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: <u>Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man</u>."***

Jesus taught us to lay up treasures in Heaven "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Any wealth you may accumulate in this world is vulnerable. Thieves will always steal from you, whether by breaking into your home while you're at church, the government stealing through unconstitutional taxation, or greedy judges and lawyers stealing from you through the legal process. Thankfully, they cannot touch our heavenly rewards. This is exactly why Jesus told us to lay up treasures in Heaven. Why spend your life laying up earthly treasures, just to leave it all behind? I choose to spend each day doing things to lay up heavenly treasures. If nothing else, everyone can pray, which the Bible calls "labour" in Colossians 4:12.

Notice that Jesus mentioned 3-culprits who rob our wealth:

1. Moths
2. Rust
3. Thieves

No matter what material possessions you may have, they will deteriorate over time. An act of God, like a tornado or earthquake, may claim all that you own. You can buy expensive clothes, but they will fade and develop holes in them over time. As you wash your clothes, and wear them, they will become old, torn and unwearable. Nothing materialistic lasts forever. As Christians we ought to look continually at the things which are not seen . . .

> 2nd Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, **<u>but at the things which</u>**

<u>are not seen</u>: for the things which are seen are temporal; **<u>but the things which are not seen are eternal</u>**."

There's no use reading my book on laying up rewards in Heaven if you don't focus daily on eternal things, otherwise you'll be choked by the cares, riches and pleasures of this world (Luke 8:14). I hope and pray that God's Holy Spirit will use my writings to inspire you to start working harder to serve God—sharing the Gospel with more people, giving double to missions, spending twice as much time praying for OTHERS, giving twice as much of yourself to your church, loving unconditionally to make it a better church. Oh, how we all ought to launch out into the deep like Jesus told His disciples. ***Luke 5:4, "Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, <u>Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught</u>."*** There is world around us that is dying without Christ. If we don't tell them about Christ, then who will?

If you buy a home, termites will eat away at it, fire will consume it, a tornado will blow it away, or criminal bankers will steal it by forfeiture. If you buy nice musical instruments, thieves will break in and steal them all. If not thieves, a flood will ruin them all. If you buy a fancy automobile, it will eventually rust, parts will break, seals will dry rot, the interior will fade, the chassis will sag and engine parts will wear old. You can buy a new car every few years (if you can afford to do so), but you'll have to continue buying cars, because they will wear out. No matter what you buy, it will become old and brittle.

For these reasons we ought to lay up treasures in Heaven by labouring for the Lord in prayer, fasting, sharing the Gospel, giving to our church, helping our pastor, doing things for others, supporting missionaries, contending for the Christian faith, taking a stand for God against evil, and doing the work of God faithfully.

Jesus said that our heavenly treasures WON'T rust, nor will our clothes wear old and torn, nor will things become old and brittle, nor will the possessions we own become broken and unusable. This is quite an amazing truth. The material things which the Lord will give us in eternity will last, retain their good condition and be free from damage. For this fact, Jesus encourages us to work to lay up treasures in Heaven. Amen!

There is nothing more frustrating than to go to work, earn a paycheck, buy something one's heart desires, and enjoy it for a short time; but then a thief breaks into your home, car or storage area and steals it. Stealing is a sin forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:15). There are many

thieves in this world, most of whom wear white collars and sit behind a desk.

It's not the petty thief breaking into your back door that you need to worry about the most; it's the criminal bankers, tyrant government and crooked lawyers who will take away your wealth. There is a way to thwart all of them—by laying up treasures in Heaven where they can't steal them from us.

Serving God Through a Local New Testament Church

God has always worked through local New Testament churches. Every Christian believer needs to be involved in a Bible-believing, soul-winning, King James Bible, missionary-supporting, local church. My friend, serving God in your church is a wonderful way to lay up treasures in Heaven.

It is said that one cold and gloomy day, Pastor Dwight L. Moody visited a man who had expressed some interest at one of Moody's meetings. Mr. Moody was led into a comfortable room with coals blazing on the fireplace. After some gracious preliminary conversation, the man began to argue that it was possible for a believer to live for God without attending a local church. As the man continued to speak, Moody leaned forward in his chair, took the poker and pulled a flaming coal from the fire, setting it alone upon the stone hearth. Dwight Moody watched as the coal slowly dimmed and went out. He then turned and looked at the man, without saying anything. After a long pause, the man said, "Mr. Moody, you have made your point!"

Also, don't join the increasingly popular group of church critics in America nowadays. I hear so many people complaining about their pastor and church, always bickering about what's wrong and could be better. May I say, there are no perfect churches, and thank God for that, or neither you nor I would be welcomed. Churches are composed of individual imperfect people. Christians at best are still people, and people at best are still sinners. ASK NOT WHAT YOUR CHURCH CAN DO FOR YOU; BUT RATHER, WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR CHURCH? I choose not to complain about existing problems in my church (and there are plenty); but rather, to pray and do my part to make it a better church. I feel sorry for hypocrites who go from church-to-church, always disgruntled and scrutinizing the church leadership with a big magnifying glass, quitting when they discover that their pastor is less than absolutely perfect.

If you have not been water baptized, do so as soon as possible. Of course, water baptism is not required to be saved. Baptism is the first step of

obedience as a Christian. I believe churches ought to water baptize their new converts immediately, because delaying often results in converts never getting baptized. Although not necessary for salvation, most believers who fail to get water baptized also fail to serve God in other areas of their Christian life. It is important to be water baptized, as a public profession of you faith in Christ's death on the cross, burial and bodily resurrection three days later. These three things constitute the Gospel according to 1st Corinthians 15:1-4. Water baptism pictures Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Baptism is an outward snapshot of what has happened inwardly in one's heart. It is **"with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (Romans 10:10).**

How Do We Lay Up Treasures in Heaven?

As a Christian, everything that you do for Jesus' sake or the Gospel's will be rewarded. Everything that one does as a Christian for the Lord Jesus Christ—soulwinning, doing good deeds, helping the poor, praying, shoveling snow for the church, buying Gospel tracts or Bibles for the church, lending without hope of return, loving our neighbor, sharing sermon MP3 sermons with others, teaching the Bible, contending for the faith, loving our enemies, passing out Bibles—these will all be greatly rewarded by God in eternity. No good deed, word or thought will be overlooked. Everything that you do because you are a born-again believer, even the most seemingly insignificant small thing, will be rewarded by our omniscient and omnibenevolent God.

There are a lot of different ways to earn rewards:

1. By Winning Souls to Jesus Christ (John 4:36).
2. By Serving Those Who Preach and Go Soul-winning (Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41).
3. By Enduring Persecution, Rejection and Being Lied About for Christ (Matthew 5:11; Luke 6:22-23; Revelation 2:10).
4. By Giving to the Work of the Lord (Philippians 4:15).
    1. Giving to the Lord's work (i.e., a missionary, preacher, prophet, soul-winner).
    2. Giving Alms (giving to the poor or handicapped - Matthew 6:34-35; Matthew 6:1-4). Giving "alms" is not tithing.
    3. Lending without expectation of return to people having a tough time; to those down on their luck (Luke 6:34-35).
5. By Labouring in Prayer (Matthew 6:6; Colossians 4:12).
6. Any Good Works That We Do, Whether Unto the Lord or Unto Man (1st Corinthians 3:11-15).
7. By Relieving the Afflicted (Matthew 25:40-45; 1st John 3:17).

If we provide a place of rest, a drink of water, a meal, money, clothes or anything to help a servant of Christ, the Lord will reward us for it. If you pass out a Gospel tract (if they are doctrinally accurate), Jesus will reward that. If you purchase the Gospel tracts (if they are doctrinally accurate), Jesus will reward you for that. If you donate money to help a Bible-believing church, you will receive a partial reward for any souls they lead to the Lord, or lives that are blessed by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

Again, the following Scripture plainly teaches that soul-winners are earning wages, and gathering fruit (souls saved), for life eternal...

> **John 4:36, "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."**

That is so beautiful. Whether we sow the seed of God's Word, or have the privilege of reaping a soul (leading them to the dear Savior), we both receive equal wages, because only God giveth the increase (1st Corinthians 3:6-8). It is the blessed Holy Spirit that convicts sinner's hearts and works the miracle of the new birth, by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13).

This next Scripture passage is beautiful. The Bible says that if we give unto someone who is preaching the Gospel, winning souls, their fruit will abound unto our account. That is, we will receive a partial reward for the people (fruit) they won to the Lord. In verse 17, the apostle Paul is saying that the believers at Philippi will receive a partial reward for the fruit that Paul won:

> **Philippians 4:15-19, "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**

Notice in Verses 18-19 that not only do we receive a partial reward when we give money to someone else who wins souls, but also, God promises to meet our needs in Christ Jesus. I love this truth in Philippians 4:17, how that God rewards us for the souls won by others, if we helped them in their work. I don't know about you, but that encourages me to help, give and

support soul-winning missionaries and churches.

By the way, be careful about who you give your money to, because if you're saved, it is really God's money. We when give, we are just letting go of what is already God's. I'd hate to spend my life donating to a church or missionary that has never won any souls to Christ. If you want to maximize your investments for eternity, make sure you only support Gospel endeavors. Sadly, 99% of so-called charities and ministries never win one soul to Christ, because they're not trying.

We receive rewards for the work that our converts do for the Lord. **2nd John 1:8, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."** Paul said, "Look, I've invested a lot of time and energy into you, and I want to receive a full reward, and I know you do too, so don't let yourselves be corrupted!"

Being "poor" does not refer to lazy people, who collect welfare and have a color TV, cigarettes, booze and lottery tickets! What many people consider "poor" in America is wealthy compared to destitute third-world countries. Yet, there are many truly poor people all across the streets of America. Jesus said in **Matthew 26:11a, "For ye have the poor always with you..."** God has a special place in His heart for the poor. **James 2:5, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"**

If you are crippled or imprisoned and unable to do anything else for God, you can become a prayer warrior!!! **Colossians 4:12, "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."** Prayer is work, which is why most Christians don't do it much! God promised to reward us as individuals for our **"own labours" (1st Corinthians 3:8).** Without prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit will not work in a ministry. God's work cannot be accomplished in the arm of the flesh. THE SPIRIT'S ABIDING (Dr. Jack Hyles).

Matthew 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Amen! The Scriptures PROMISE that God will openly reward any believer that prays in secret. This simply means that you are sincere in your prayers, spending time alone with God, and not superficially praying in public (like the Presidential Prayer Breakfast at the White House)

to be seen of men, reading from scripts written by professional speech-writers. God doesn't honor phony prayer (Matthew 6:5, 7-8). Jesus taught us to enter into our closet, or your home if you're alone. The idea is to get alone with God. **Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving <u>let your requests be made known unto God</u>. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."** That's beautiful!

There are many ways to lay up treasures in Heaven. Giving to the legitimate poor brings rewards. **Proverbs 19:17, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."** The apostle Paul mentioned contributions to the poor saints in Jerusalem...

> **Romans 15:26, "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution <u>for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem</u>."**

Here are some Scriptures which promise rewards from God...

> **Matthew 5:10-12, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for <u>great is your reward in heaven</u>: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."**
>
> **Luke 6:22-23, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, <u>your reward is great in heaven</u>: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."**
>
> **Luke 6:35, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and <u>your reward shall be great</u>, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."**
>
> **Proverb 19:17, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."**

The poor are near and dear to the heart of God. God has promised to reward those who help the poor.

The Extent Of God's Judgment And Recompense Toward All Men

Jesus warned in **Matthew 12:36** that **"every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."** This applies to good, idle and bad words alike. No one is going to escape God's judgment. No one is going to get away with anything. The Bible teaches that God will hold men accountable even for our very thoughts. **Proverbs 24:12, "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" Hebrews 4:13, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."** Isn't it wonderful to know that nothing escapes the eyes of God? Nothing ever occurs to God. The Lord never needs to write things down, keep records or try to remember anything—because He is omniscient and knows everything about all things.

Jesus wonderfully encourages all believers by promising us that giving even a cup of water in Jesus' name will not go unrewarded by God in eternity. **Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."**

If you think that is amazing, then prepare to be mind-boggled my friend, because Jesus promised that giving even a cup of water "*IN THE NAME OF A DISCIPLE*" will not go overlooked by God in eternity. **Matthew 10:42, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."** Are you starting to get the wonderful picture friend? God wants to reward us for everything we do for Him. God is going to judge all men, saved and unsaved alike, scrutinizing every work, word and thought, whether good or bad. For the saved, the blood of Jesus Christ has washed our sins away. **Psalms 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."** There is no danger of the Christian being cast into the dreaded Lake of Fire; but for the unsaved, God will punish them in the fires of Hell for every sin they've ever committed.

Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you <u>a cup of water</u> to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he

shall not lose his reward." Even the person who helps a person who serves God will receive a reward from God. If God will reward us for even giving a cup of water, then how much more shall He reward us for preaching the Gospel to lost sinners and helping the poor in Jesus' name. Nothing goes unrewarded by God.

Sharing The Gospel Will Be Rewarded

Time spent preaching the gospel will be rewarded. 1st Corinthians 3:7-8, "So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." God will reward us for our individual labors in the Lord, as you just read: "according to his own labour." We all reach the future at 60 minutes per hour. We all have 24 hours in a day. We all have 86,400 seconds in a day. God promises to reward each and every individual believer "*ACCORDING TO HIS OWN LABOUR*."

That encourages me greatly, because I can serve God even if others don't. I can preach the gospel while others are "choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14). What are you doing for God? How much of your time, money and labours do you spend to reach the lost for Christ, help others and make a difference for the Kingdom of God?

Please notice that God doesn't reward us for the number of people who get saved; but rather, for the effort we put forth to get people saved. Only God can save a soul. God doesn't reward soul-winners; but rather, those who preach (or share) the gospel. Whether we win a soul to Christ or simply plant the seed of God's Word by sharing the gospel, the reward is the same according to his own labour. Our part is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ; it is God's part to convict lost sinners and save those who come to Jesus Christ.

Why Will We Be Rewarded?

Why would Christ reward us? He has already paid for our sins on the cross. The Lord could just as easily say, "Hey, I died for you, now you owe me!" Instead, the Bible calls serving God our "reasonable service" in Romans 12:2. It is only reasonable that since we are bought with a price (and that "price" is the precious blood of Jesus), we ought to give our lives to follow Christ in obedience to the holy Bible. **1st Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your**

spirit, which are God's."

Lost souls need to be saved. Seeds planted need to be watered. The "seed" is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). Witnessing to someone is the "sowing." When a person is brought to Christ, that is the "reaping." Once we're saved, we have eternal life. We will never die! Notice the following beautiful Scripture:

> **John 4:36, "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."**

The "wages" in John 4:36 are not eternal life. The gift of God is eternal life. The "wages" are for soul-winning. By preaching the Gospel and winning souls we are "gathering fruit unto life eternal," Rewards are "unto" eternal life, reaping souls to receive wages from God. Our wages will last forever. Eternal life is a free gift, which is why God rewards us for service. We can't take anything with us, but we can sent it on ahead. Amen! Whew, I love that!!!

Why will we be rewarded? It is because eternal life is a free gift. We cannot earn eternal life. Jesus gets all the glory for salvation. We have no part in meriting our salvation, neither before, during or after. God pays His workers. The free "gift" of eternal life is totally separate from our rewards, because God pays His workers! Jesus paid for our forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It is a gift. That's why Jesus doesn't need to forgive our sins, because He has already paid for them with His blood (1st Peter 1:18-19).

God doesn't want us to take any credit for salvation. This is why He rewards us for even giving a cup of water in a disciple's name. God is going to reward even the tiniest efforts done for Him. Anything that we do for Jesus' sake or the Gospel's will be rewarded. **Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."** God pays His workers! The free gift of eternal life is completely separate from that.

"Gathering fruit unto eternal life" in John 4:36 refers to the rewards that we earn by serving God as believers, specifically, reaping souls by soul-winning. This has NOTHING to do with the free gift of eternal life:

> **Matthew 10:39-42, "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and**

he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

So, even if we help someone in the name of someone else, who is a servant of Christ, God will reward us. What a wonderful Savior!!!

Labouring In Prayer Will Be Rewarded

Prayer will be rewarded. One of the most overlooked ways of laying up treasures in Heaven is by labouring in PRAYER. Quite frankly, PRAYER IS WORK! **Colossians 4:12, "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."** I love that Scripture. All prayer is work! It consumes our mental energies. Prayer requires the sacrifice of our time, which could have been spent elsewhere. Any businessman will admit that in essence time is money and money is time. Thus, in God's economy prayer is a powerful resource for every Christian believer, which the Lord has promised to reward those who faithfully pray without ceasing as the Bible commands in 1st Thessalonians 5:17.

Prayer is work! That's why most people don't pray. Notice that that the Apostle Paul was praying for OTHERS. In Luke 11:2-4 we find the Lord's Prayer (which is really the disciple's prayer because Jesus was teaching them how to pray) we are given a pattern to follow. Jesus taught in Matthew 6:7 not to pray long prayers, because God already knows our needs. God has made prayer simple as to motivate and encourage us to pray continually.

Rewards Are A Matter Of Discipleship, Not Sonship

Please understand, none of these things will get us to Heaven. We are saved solely by Christ's righteousness; and not by any self-righteousness of our own, and a good thing, because we have none to offer God (Isaiah 64:6). Hence, we don't do good works to become a Christian; we do good works because WE ARE a Christian.

So many people these days are absolutely consumed with making money.

It's their life. Although they may enjoy the splendors of this temporary life, they won't have much in Heaven, if they're even going to Heaven.

The greatest treasure in Heaven will be the souls of people saved through the preaching of the Gospel. That is the greatest treasure of all. **Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."**

"God never leads anyone anywhere for money."
—Pastor Jack Hyles

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† † † MP3 SERMONS † † †

Lending To God
(by Dr. Curtis Hutson)

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Rewards In Heaven

Chapter Two — Every Man Rewarded According to His Own Labor

By David J. Stewart

1st Corinthians 3:7-8, "So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

The Scriptures plainly teach that God will reward every believer according to their own **LABOUR**. Please note that this has absolutely nothing to do with salvation, for we are solely saved by Christ's righteousness (Romans 4:5-6; 2nd Corinthians 5:21; Titus 3:5).

The Greek word for "labour" in 1st Corinthians 3:8 is "kopos" and means "to toil (as reducing the strength)." It means that the more we labour for the Lord until we become weary and tired, the more He is going to reward us. Those who stay up late into the wee hours of the morning, going the extra mile, working relentlessly, sacrificing their time for the Lord's sake and the Gospel's, will be greatly rewarded.

The Bible teaches that EVERY man will receive his OWN reward for his OWN labour. Every believer will stand before God and give account for the good **and** the bad done in this earthly body (2nd Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12).

It is frustrating in this American Communist society in which we live, that the government takes from those who work and gives it to those who don't. Regardless of what you may think personally, it was NEVER the intention of our founding fathers for government to support the poor. The government's only purpose is to protect our freedom, person and property. It's not the government's business to educate our children, control the banks and provide social security. The Church has the responsibility to help the poor (James 1:27). Thankfully, the Bible teaches that each believer's

reward in eternity will be his OWN, and no one is going to deprive him of it, con him out of it, nor confiscate it from him.

It is disturbing when the government confiscates our money in the form of taxes, and then uses that money to fund abortion, the homosexual agenda and the teaching of Evolution. This is not freedom. Most Americans do not approve of these agendas, and yet they are forced to support them. God assures us that we will EACH receive our OWN reward for our OWN labour, and it will be OURS to enjoy. Thank you Lord.

I don't know about you, but that makes me want to do as much for God as I can while I'm hear on earth. And no amount of slander or criticism from our enemies will affect our rewards in Heaven, because God rewards us according to our OWN LABOUR. Amen and amen!

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Rewards In Heaven

Chapter Three — They Shall Shine as the Brightness of the Stars

By David J. Stewart

Revelation 22:12, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

The Book of Daniel, in the Old Testament, teaches that Soul Winners will shine as the brightness of the stars in Heaven. I believe this is because the souls whom are led to the Lord through our ministry efforts will thank and admire us in Heaven. Certainly, only God can save anyone (1st Corinthians 3:7). Yet, God uses us as vehicles by which to win those folks to Him.

Carefully notice that Soul Winners will shine as the brightness of the stars in Heaven. Stars stand out in the night sky. Soul Winners will be the celebrities in Heaven. In this heathen world—those who strip naked, glorify sin, take God's name in vain, reject Jesus Christ, commit homosexuality and live for Satan—are idolized by the masses of society.

It will be a much different situation in Heaven. The wicked will not be there (Revelation 22:15). Only sinners saved by God's grace will be in Heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9). Anyone can be saved if they'll come for forgiveness through the Son of God (John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12; 10:43).

In Heaven, it is Soul Winners who will be celebrities. Amen! No wicked person will be honored in God's Kingdom. What a day that will be. The Bible says that they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars of the universe. The only true righteousness is Christ's imputed righteousness, which is by faith (Romans 4:5-6).

What in the world does that big word mean . . . *IMPUTETH*? The word "impute" means "to pass to one's account, to count over" It means that

Jesus places His righteousness upon our record when we trust upon Him for salvation. Romans chapter four speaks concerning Abraham, "*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was* ***COUNTED UNTO HIM*** *for righteousness*" (Romans 4:3). What a beautiful truth! Abraham was not saved by good works; but rather, he believed God and was saved by Christ's righteousness. Christ's perfection was imputed (placed) on Abraham's record in Heaven. God the Father viewed Abraham thereafter as having the righteousness of Christ. What a Savior!

Proverb 11:30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Believers who are **"choked with cares and riches and pleasures"** of this earthly life (Luke 8:14), who bring forth no fruit to perfection, will not shine in Heaven. In fact, they will be very sad because they failed to seize the opportunity while on earth to win souls to Jesus. Once this life is over, the race is finished. All opportunities to earn rewards in Heaven will be over. The chance to pass the test of our faith will be gone.

The average churchgoer is so brainwashed with religion that they aren't even saved themselves, let alone telling others how to be saved. We are saved by faith, and then we live the Christian life by faith. We are saved solely by Christ's righteousness, which is only by His precious, literal, physical, blood sacrifice (Hebrews 9:12,24).

Then as born-again believers, Christ lives the Christian life through us as we yield to His Sprit day-by-day in obedience to the Scriptures. Please understand that living a consecrated life for God has absolutely NOTHING to do with being saved. You are saved because you come as a helpless, guilty, sinner and trust on Christ to forgive your sins and save you.

The Bible plainly teaches that Soul Winners will shine in eternity as the brightness of the stars. Our duty as Christians is to turn men unto the righteousness of Jesus Christ that they may be saved. **2nd Corinthians 5:21, "For He** [God the Father] **hath made Him** [God the Son] **to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."**

What Will the Rewards Be?

In this life my get blessings, joy, friends and family, houses, et cetera. **Revelation 2:26-27, "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."** Those

who work hard and win souls are going to rule and reign with Christ during the millennium. God gives us greater responsibility as a reward, giving us power and authority (over perhaps a city or a nation).

Daniel 12:2-3, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." The Bible says if we are wise we will shine, as the firmament. Those who turn many to the imputed righteousness of God will shine as the stars. They will be the superstars in Heaven, beloved by their converts.

1st Corinthians 15:40-44, "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." The word "glory" in the holy Bible literally means "to shine," as the glory of the sun, moon or stars. Just as the sun, moon and stars vary in glory (brightness), so also will the resurrected saints differ in their amount of glory. It won't be a Communist utopia dream. Some believers will rule over 10 cities, others over 5 and some over none. Some saints will shine with glory as the stars, others like a dim lightbulb, and some not at all. Power. One form of rewards that we will receive are power, glory and authority.

1st Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." God will glorify His saints at the resurrection (the Rapture). It is a sin to exalt our self now, but we will be exalted together with Christ at His coming. We will cast our crowns at His feet. Christ is the final authority. Christ is responsible for everyone who has ever been saved. Jesus shines so brightly that people are blinded by His glory. **Revelation 10:1, "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and <u>his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire</u>."** Our precious Lord shines with a glory so bright that is emanates with the intensity of the sun!!!

I don't know about you friend, but I want to go for some maximum wattage! I want to shine as the stars of the heavens, from leading sinners to Jesus Christ. In this wicked world, the fallen stars of Hollywood shine for

a season, but the name of the wicked shall rot! **Proverbs 10:7, "The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot." Jude 1:7 and 13, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ... Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."**

We Need God's Righteousness

There is no reward promised to the unsaved, except to spend eternity burning in the Lake of Fire. **Isaiah 3:11, "Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him." Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** But even for the worst of believers, they'll still be in Heaven forever, although **"saved; yet so as by fire" (1st Corinthians 3:15).** The worst sinner in Heaven will be infinitely better off than the best sinner in Hell. You don't go to Heaven because you're good; And you don't go to Hell because you're bad. We're all horrible sinners! **Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."**

There will be murderers and adulterers in Heaven; And there will be priests and morally upright church members in Hell. You go to Heaven because you receive Christ's sacrifice on the cross as payment for your sins, believing that He raised up as your heavenly High Priest. As the perfect and sinless Lamb of God, Christ died in our place on the cross. Jesus paid a debt that He did not owe, because we owed a debt that we could not pay. God will not save anyone who is trying to be saved, He will only save those who are trusting to be saved. Salvation is not doing your best, it is having Christ's best put to your account through receiving Him by faith.

We are saved by God's imputed righteousness, which is by faith alone in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:9, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."**

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Rewards In Heaven

Chapter Four — Rewards Because Of Persecution

By David J. Stewart

Luke 6:22-23, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."

Jesus said "great" shall be the reward in Heaven of those believers who are persecuted for His names' sake. If you are a God-fearing Christian who loves the Lord, then you know that the unrighteous hold you to an unfair standard. A wicked man can do evil an hundred times and no one cares; but just let a child of God sin once and every hypocrite will condemn him as a fraud and a phony. In the eyes of the wicked, a righteous man has to be perfect or else suffer severe slander.

The chief priests, scribes and Pharisees were continually trying to accuse Jesus (Mark 12:13; John 8:5-7; Matthew 12:10; Luke 11:53-54; Luke 23:2,10) and find fault in Him. They hated Jesus because He spoke the truth, was perfect in all His ways, and many of the people followed Him. Yet, Jesus overcame this hateful, malicious and sin-cursed world (John 16:33). Amen!

Thus, Jesus tells us to rejoice because we are on the winning side. Jesus said in John 16:33 to "Be of good cheer." Of course, the more we shew forth the love of God, and any form of joy, the more the miserable world will hate us. The Bible foretold in **2nd Timothy 3:1-5 "that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection,**

trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." This accurately describes America today. What a hellhole of iniquity!

Jesus said that the world would hate us (John 15:19), just as it hated Him; but our reward will be great in Heaven. The more grief that evil people cause us because we are a sin-hating Christian, the greater will be our reward. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. God is going to make it all up to us. The poorest saint in Heaven will live much better than the wealthiest celebrity in Beverly Hills, California. Jesus promised to prepare ***A PLACE*** for us in Heaven, so **"that where I am, there ye may be also"** (John 14:1-3). Praise God! I want to live with Jesus in Heaven! You can have this world and all the splendors it has to offer, because it's all a temporary illusion.

Jesus mentions FIVE different types of persecution:

1. People who hate you (Luke 6:22-23; John 15:19).
2. Separate themselves from you (Luke 6:22-23).
3. Reproach you (Luke 6:22-23).
4. Cast out your good name as evil (Luke 6:22-23).
5. Say all manner of evil against you falsely, for Christ's sake (Matthew 5:11).

If you carry a Bible, the world will hate and avoid you. Just start giving out Gospel tracts and watch how fast you lose acquaintances. 2nd Timothy 3:12 says that they who live godly in Christ Jesus, ***SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION!!!***

Please understand that the Bible is not talking about mere charity. If you help the poor and give handouts to the needy, even the vilest sinners will accept you; but if you take a Biblical stand against sin, avoiding it, you will be hated and persecuted. Even the notorious Chicago gangster, Al Capone, opened soup kitchens and food pantries for the poor. The public loved him. Just because you help the poor doesn't mean that you're serving God. What about their souls? A lot of apostate Christians do nothing but feed the poor; but never preach the Gospel, never contend for the Biblical faith, never preach against sin and never make a difference for Jesus Christ.

God does reward our good works as believers, whether unto men or unto God, but the Bible never says that "they who feed the poor shall shine as the brightness of the stars forever." No, rather, the Bible says in **Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and <u>they that turn many to righteousness as the</u>**

stars for ever and ever." This speaks of the imputed righteousness of God... SOUL-WINNING!!!

Please don't misunderstand, helping the poor is a wonderful thing; but God is not going to reward any believer who is not a Soul Winner. **2nd Corinthians 5:11** says, **"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."** This Scripture speaks of the judgment of believers, which is clearly evidenced by 1st Corinthians 5:10. Soulwinning is good; not soulwinning is bad.

You will be persecuted if you speak out against evolution, abortion, homosexuality, nightclubs, Harry Potter, ***SIN CITY*** Las Vegas, adultery and violence on television, false religion, immodest dress on women, drunkenness, sinful partying, Communism, pornography, and all other forms of wickedness. Ephesians 5:11 commands us not to fellowship with darkness; but rather, expose it.

The lifestyle and conversation of the born-again Christian **who loves Jesus** is drastically different from that of the sin-loving world. They will condemn us, and hate us, and place us under their magnifying glass for scrutiny. Any fault we have will be used to destroy our credibility and slander us. The Apostle Paul said in **Romans 3:8, "we be slanderously reported."** If evil men slandered Jesus and the Apostle Paul, then you can rest assure they will slander us too. And so it is. Jesus said our reward is great in Heaven.

The child of God, who has a pure and tender heart, will never mix with cold-hearted people. Unfortunately, we have to work to eat and oftentimes have little choice in the matter. Let me encourage you, whoever you may be in the Lord, to rejoice in knowing that God has great rewards laid up for you in Heaven; where neither moth, rust, nor thieves can take them from you (Matthew 6:20). Jesus is precious and He has promised to reward us, even for giving a cup of water in a disciple's name (Matthew 10:42). Likewise, men will be judged for every word spoken on Judgment Day (Matthew 12:36).

What a day that will be
when my Jesus I shall see
When I look upon His face
the One Who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand
and leads me through the Promised Land
What a day, glorious day, that will be!

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Chapter Five — Your Labor is Not In Vain In The Lord

By David J. Stewart

1st Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Every believer who has worked long, toilsome hours for the Lord, often into the wee hours of the morning, knows the feeling of being overwhelmed at times with weariness. It's easy to start wondering if anyone's listening? Is my work just a big waste of time?

Many years ago my pastor said that he sometimes wonders if all his Bible study, and hard work preparing sermons, was really getting through to people. He worked very hard, and it wearied him at times. This is what the word "labour" means in 1st Corinthians 3:7. It means "to toil (as reducing the strength)." Most believers don't know what it means to labour in the Lord.

I think we all feel frustrated at times, as believers, sincerely wondering if our labors are worth it; while the rest of the world is having fun, doing nothing for God. In fact, most believers do nothing for God (Luke 8:14).

The Bible assures us that our labours are never in vain IN THE LORD. God will reward us according to our OWN labour, and we will receive our OWN reward (1st Corinthians 3:7-8). **Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."** Amen! Even a cup of water given in a disciple's name guarantees a reward in Heaven. Everything that one does to help a man of God, whether it be your pastor or a foreign missionary who's preaching the Gospel, God will reward that person.

There are so many ways to earn rewards in Heaven—you can go

soulwinning yourself, you can help someone else who is a Soul Winner, you can help an organization which is committed to soulwinning, et cetera. Even if you simply drive the Soul Winners to their soulwinning destination, God will reward you for helping them. Just as God will hold men accountable for every idle word spoken on Judgment Day (Matthew 12:36); so shall God reward men every believer for even a cup of water given in Jesus' name (Mark 9:41).

Good and bad, God is recording everything in Heaven (2nd Corinthians 5:10). What happens at grandma's house is recorded in Heaven! No good work will go unrewarded for the believer; nor any evil work unaccounted for (Romans 14:12). You can rest assure that God will reward each and every believer for every keystroke, every footstep, every word, every writing, every work, which is done in Jesus' name.

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Chapter Six — Laboring In Vain Without The Gospel

By David J. Stewart

Philippians 2:16, "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Nearly all religious work done today is in vain because it does not hold forth the **WORD OF TRUTH** as God commands. The Bible is the Word of Truth. **John 17:17, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth."** If the truth of God's Word is not being preached, then all work is done in vain. God will not reward anyone for labor done that doesn't center around the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many people have a sincere desire to help the misfortunate, but there is no concern for where their soul will spend eternity. The biggest lie of the Devil is that we are all God's children. Scripturally, no Christ-rejecter will ever step instead Heaven's gates. In fact, the Bible teaches that all Christ-rejecters will be punished in the flaming fires of Hell forever. **2nd Thessalonians 1:8-9, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."** Jesus is the ONLY way to Heaven. **John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

It is tragic that so many people work tirelessly in vain. Their labors will amount to nothing 100-years from now. There are millions of people in this world who are committed to an empty cause, who spend their lives on things that are worldly and shallow, having no regard for the truth. God's Word is truth.

This is why I defend the integrity of the trustworthy King James Bible. All modern Bibles are corrupt. The *New International Version* (NIV) removes the name above every other name, **Jesus**, in 38 places! **Philippians 2:9-10, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."** Why would anyone use such an obvious degradation of the Scriptures that repeatedly removes the name of our precious Savior?

The Word of God is the Word of Life. The gospel is not merely the most important part of what we do, it is absolutely essential and mandatory! The good news of Christ crucified and risen for our sins is not only the greatest message in history, it is the only way anyone will ever get to Heaven. Ye must be born again. **John 3:3, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

The only labor which God will reward is labor centered around holding forth the Word of Life, i.e., the saving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."**

Most religious work done today is done in the flesh and is completely void of the gospel. There are thousands of charities that help the poor, but have absolutely no concern over the souls of men. The gospel means nothing to them. If they teach a religious message at all, it is unbiblical and a false gospel.

Are you laboring in vain? The only thing that we can take with us into eternity are the souls saved, lives changed and our labours for the King of kings. If the good news of Jesus Christ is not preached, you will receive no reward. Philippians 2:16 speaks very plainly that if the Word of Life is not upheld, then all labor is for nothing. You will have run the course in vain.

Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." There will be millions of people on Judgment Day, who labored tirelessly throughout their earthly life, who will receive no reward from the Lord, and most of them will be cast into the Lake of Fire as religious Christ-rejecters.

In Philippians 2:16 the Apostle Paul, speaking under the inspiration of the

Spirit of God, said that all our labors will be in vain if we fail to hold forth the WORD OF LIFE. May all of our labors center around the preaching of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, that we may receive a full-reward as Christians at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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Chapter Five — Saving One's Life And Losing One's Soul

By David J. Stewart

Matthew 16:26, For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

My heart's desire in writing this book is that God will place a burning desire in your soul to get busy serving God, so that you may lay up treasures in Heaven. When Jesus spoke of a man "losing His life," He was speaking to His disciples (Christians)...

> **Matthew 16:24-27, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."**

The preceding passage of Scripture plainly speaks to believers, because the unsaved (Christ-rejecting lost) will be judged according to their works at *The Great White Throne of Judgment* (Revelation 20:12-15). Matthew 16:27 speaks of the Rapture of the saints, which we also read about in **Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."**

What did the Lord mean by a believer losing his soul? Here's what I think it means. We read in **Proverb 6:32, "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."** How does committing adultery destroy a man's soul? It

destroys a man's integrity, confidence and good name. You've done permanent soul damage. **Notice the next verse, Proverb 6:33, "A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."**

In the same way, those believers whose lives are fruitless of winning souls to Christ (for various reasons identified in Luke 8:13-15), they will receive a wound and dishonor in eternity when they face God. Certainly, selfishly living one's life void of serving God is just as wicked as committing adultery. Most believers commit spiritual adultery, idolizing the things of this temporal life as being more important than the things of God. **Luke 8:14, "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."**

All of this physical world, that seems so important to most people today, will all pass away in time. ***1st John 2:17a, "And the world passeth away…"*** Everything that you see around you came from the dust of the earth, and it will all return back to the dust of the earth, including our body. ***1st Timothy 6:7, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."*** When a worldly believer dies, they'll have nothing in Heaven... *"saved, yet so as by fire"* (1st Corinthians 3:11). Such a believer will feel like a complete stranger in Heaven, and will be very discouraged when they realize the opportunities that they forfeited, and the rewards they never earned, and the souls they never led to Christ. I think that is what losing one's soul means, as pertaining to the carnal believer. I think it refers to the regret, sorrow, tears and pain caused in Heaven by our failures here on earth.

The Lord told us to lay up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). The Bible says that we will be rewarded according to our personal labors (1st Corinthians 3:7). Christ is bringing our rewards with Him (Revelation 22:12). Daniel 12:3 says that believers who are wise and spend their life reaching others for Jesus Christ will shine in Heaven. I think when you consider all these Scriptures, and other passages as well (such as the receiving of the five crowns), it becomes quite obvious to me that many believers will be miserable in eternity, having earned nothing but reproach and chastisement from God. I mean, what would be the use of working hard to lay up treasures in Heaven if other believers who don't ever lift a finger for God are going to enjoy Heaven just as much?

Personally, based upon Matthew 11:11, I don't think anybody will be totally miserable in Heaven. **Matthew 11:11, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."** Yet, I think it is clear from the Bible that

some Christians will be better off than others, having more rewards, a bigger home, shining brighter as they are loved by those whom they led to the Lord on earth. When we all get to eternity, and reality all sets in, I think most believers will weep bitter tears of regret, realizing that they could have had so much more. Prayed lately? Prayer is labour!

Ah, but those faithful Christians who preached the Gospel to others, lived for the things of Jesus Christ, labored in prayer, helped the poor and needy, lived for others, abided in Christ, took a stand for God against sin, watched for the glorious appearing of the Savior, and contended earnestly for the Christian faith... they will enjoy Heaven much more. ***Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*** If soul-winners will shine brightly, then those carnal believers who didn't won't shine. There are five different crowns (REWARDS—THE FIVE CROWNS! | MP3) available as rewards in Heaven. Obviously, there will be believers in Heaven who receive no crowns. ***1st Corinthians 3:8, "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward <u>according to his own labour</u>."*** If you don't labor for Christ, then you won't be rewarded. It's that simple!

My friend, it is my hope and prayerful goal in the chapters ahead to inspire you to get busy for God. God didn't save us to BE GOOD, but to DO GOOD. Our Mixed Up Fundamental Christianity (a great life-changing MP3 sermon by Pastor Jack Hyles).

Ye Must Be Born Again!

You must be a born-again Christian or you'll never see Heaven. You can do all the good deeds in the world, but you'll go straight to Hell if you die in your sins. **John 8:24, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."** That's the honest truth from God's Word.

Salvation happens when a person acknowledges their guilty condition as a sinner in God's sight (Romans 3:19), and comes to God on the basis of being a hell-deserving sinner, believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you receive Christ's sacrifice on the cross as payment for your sins, believing that He was buried and bodily raised up bodily from the dead three days later, you are immediately and forever saved!!! Jesus doesn't forgive sins. That is correct! Jesus has already paid for everyone's sins with His own precious blood. **1st Peter 1:18-19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your**

fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Note: All Scriptures are quoted ONLY from the beloved, blood-sprinkled, King James Bible.

Thus, forgiveness of sins and eternal life are free gifts, that you simply need to receive by faith in Jesus to obtain. God can read your mind. The very second that you decide to trust in Jesus, believing that He died on the cross for your sins, and that He was buried, and that He physically (bodily) resurrected from the dead three days later, God knows your thoughts and saves you immediately.

Furthermore, you only need to be saved once. Once saved, always saved! The very moment that you trust Christ as your Savior, you are born anew (born again) by the Holy Spirit of God. **John 1:12-13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** Oh, it is wonderful to be a Christian!!!

"God never leads anyone anywhere for money."
—Pastor Jack Hyles

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† † † MP3 SERMONS † † †

Lending To God
(by Dr. Curtis Hutson)

Some On Broken Pieces
(by Dr. Jack Hyles)

Christ And His Coworkers
(by Dr. Curtis Hutson)

The Believer's 3-Fold Judgment
(by Dr. Curtis Hutson)

The Giving Of The Crown Of Life
(by Dr. Jack Hyles)

Ye Must Be Born Again!

You Need HIS Righteousness!